Sports

Ducks say it is not Miller time, beat UCLA, 80-65

By Robert Collias

Of the Emerald

After a roller coaster season that had a lot more down and frustrating parts than up and memorable ones, the Oregon men's basketball team put a pleasant final chapter on the year with a gratifying 80-65 victory over the UCLA Bruins in McArthur Court on Saturday afternoon in front of a regional television audience.

In a season that saw Oregon lose twice as many conference games as it won, and had the Oregon State Beavers, bless their hearts, go from first to seventh in a matter of weeks. Saturday's win over the NITbound Bruins could not have been more satisfying for the

Ducks who finished 11-17 for the season and 6-12 in the conference. Consider these

•Over 9,000 fans said good-bye to the Ducks lone senior — Jerry Adams - in a special ceremony before the game in which he presented flowers to his mother. Adams, who has been on a tear his last five games, responded in kind with 19 points and a career-high 16

•The 16 caroms officially crowned Adams as the chairman of the boards in the Pac-10 Conference this season as the first-team all-conference star ran away with the conference honors in that category with 289 rebounds for the season, enough to move Adams into the 10th spot on the all-time Oregon season list just ahead of Greg Ballard. Adams also finished

eighth on the all-time Oregon career rebounding list with 703.

The Ducks may have found their point-guard of the future as freshman Kevin Mouton, starting his third-straight game, drew the unenviable task of guarding UCLA's prolific scorer - Reggie Miller. Mouton had plenty of help from his Oregon teammates, but he held Miller to 18 points for the game, only six in the pivotal second half. Mouton started the second half with three fouls but got no more after that. Miller, who is averaging over 26 points per game, had 41 points against the Beavers on Thursday, but Saturday he shot an anemic six of 16 from the field.

Oregon coach Don Monson called the game the best outing for his team this year and finally saw the Ducks come through in the clutch when they had to as

Anthony Taylor, who scored a game-high 23 points, seemed to be everywhere on the court, especially when the game was on the line in the second half.

•Keith Balderston bounced back from a disappointing performance against USC Thursday night with one of the best clutch perfomances for Oregon all season long as he scored 15 points in the second half to finish with 18 for the game.

Monson was more than a little pleased after the game.

"Quite obviously that was a great win for us," Monson said. 'The crowd was just outstanding as usual, and we played excellently. I don't think we could have played much better defensively.

Defense was certainly a concern for the Oregon coaching

Continued on Page 11



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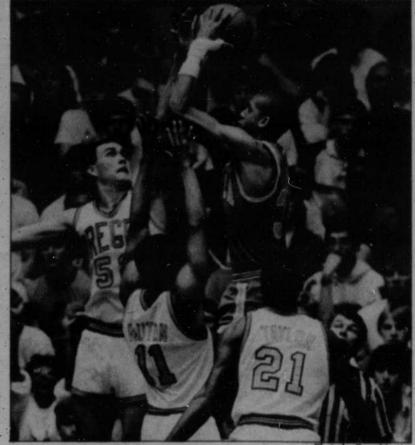
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Oregon's defense on Reggie Miller (shooting) was outstanding as Keith Balderston (52), Kevin Mouton (11), and Anthony Taylor (21) surround him.



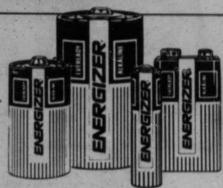
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